

recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of LR 225. Although I cannot match the fervor or the eloquence of Senator Newell in his support of this resolution, I do in fact share his support of this measure. I, unlike some of the members of the body who have commented upon the nonresponsiveness of the University, problems they see within the University system, I really don't share those concerns. I don't view LR 225 as an anti-University, let's get the University measure. I am a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I have received excellent response from University officials when I have asked for information and I don't really feel that bringing the University to its knees is the issue that is before us. As I view the issue, it is merely one of legislative responsibility, fiscal responsibility of this body. This body, as Senator Newell has stated, is the authority for raising tax money in the State of Nebraska. We are the ones that have to go to the citizens and tell the citizens that we are demanding a portion of their salary to help finance higher education in this state. We are the ones, through our appropriation process, who say to the universities, we are giving you X number of dollars to carry on higher education. I feel it is really ludicrous that that is where our responsibility ends. I don't know how many of you were contacted, last summer, by individuals who were very interested in how the University was spending its money, programs that it was cutting, programs that it was considering phasing out, programs it was considering adding. It is a very frustrating process to have to tell those people that, yes, we have taken money from the citizens to run the University, yes, we have given this money to the University, but we really have no say on how that money is spent. I think the question is one of fiscal responsibility. I hope the members of this body would see it that way and would vote in favor of raising this resolution from the committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I think I need